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## SOUTHERN NEWS.

The Richmond Whig of August 9, says:—  
"The Confederate sloop of war Arkansas, Lt. H. K. Stevens, of South Carolina, commanding, left Vicksburg on Monday to co-operate in the attack on Baton Rouge. After passing Bayou Sara some portion of her machinery became disabled, and she was hauled in towards the shore for repairs. Whilst in this position she was attacked by a fleet of Yankee gunboats from below. After a gallant resistance she was abandoned and blown up. The officers and crew were informed, reached the shore in safety."

In the interview between Gen. Hartsuff, of Gen. Pope's army, and Gen. Stuart, after the battle of Cedar Mountain, the latter said he had an engagement with two brigades coming from Fredericksburg. The Petersburg Express of the 9th has the following dispatch referring to the affair:

RICHMOND, August 8.—General Stuart left Hanover Court House on Monday, with Lee's cavalry, and proceeded to within a few miles of Fredericksburg. He there learned that two brigades of the enemy had gone in the direction of Hanover Junction. He then went in pursuit of them, and overtook their rear guard at Massaponax. A sharp skirmish occurred in which he captured sixty prisoners. The enemy being reinforced, and having a strong position on a rising ground, Gen. Stuart fell back. The enemy did not pursue. In the mean time, a detachment sent for the purpose, captured a train of twelve wagons and fifty soldiers on the Fredericksburg road. General Stuart returned to Hanover Court House last night.

A telegraphic dispatch to the Richmond Examiner, dated Mobile 8th, states:

MOBILE, August 8.—A schooner from Havana ran the blockade yesterday morning. Her cargo consists of powder, lead, caps, salt, coffee, cavalry sabres and soap.

The same paper says: A very rapid steamer, well loaded with many desirable articles, arrived safely at a Southern port on Wednesday (Aug. 6.) The vigilance of the blockading squadron was eluded without trouble.

A special dispatch to the same paper dated Mobile, Aug. 8, states: A special dispatch to the Tribune states that persons from Memphis say that twenty transports from below and forty from above have arrived there. It is believed that the city is to be evacuated and most of the troops there sent to other points, leaving a mere garrison behind.

The Richmond Examiner says: "The fatality which has pursued our navy, is still upon its heels; and the Arkansas is reported to have followed the fate of the Merrimac and the Mississippi. Our own people have burnt and destroyed our last remaining first-class vessel on the water. The Arkansas, with a little assistance from other vessels which might have, in the course of time, been sent to her aid, might have retaken New Orleans and held the enemy's gunboats at bay below the city. But the vessel is lost, and Butler's reign must go on."

## Further from Independence, Missouri.

LEXINGTON, August 12.—Later advices from Independence, Missouri, says that Lieutenant Colonel Buell, commanding that post, with fifty men, was taken completely by surprise yesterday morning. His men were quartered in a bank building, which after four hours hard fighting, was fired by the Confederates, when Buell surrendered. The Confederates gave out that they intended to attack this city immediately.

A dispatch from Kansas City dated the 12th says:—"A battle took place at three o'clock yesterday at Independence, Mo., between the Federal forces, 350 men, under Lieutenant Colonel Buell, and from 500 to 600 Confederates, under Colonel Hughes, assisted by Quantrell and Hayes, resulting in the complete rout and surrender of the Federal troops. The loss on either side is unknown. It appears that the town was surprised about three o'clock in the morning. A simultaneous movement was made upon the camp, Buell's headquarters and the quartermaster's office, which were some distance apart. The fighting continued about three hours. The troops, almost without officers, hotly contested the ground, sheltering themselves behind trees and fences.— Captain Thomas, of the militia, was taken prisoner almost at the outset. A large quantity of arms, some 20,000 rounds of ammunition, besides other government property fell into the hands of the Confederates. On the receipt of the surrender of Independence, this city was thrown into a state of excitement. All business houses were closed. The militia was promptly called out, and guards placed around the city. Aid was asked from Fort Leavenworth, and was promptly responded to by Lieut. Col. Burris, who arrived yesterday at 4 p. m., with four companies of infantry and three of cavalry, and two pieces of artillery."

The steamer White Cloud from Memphis on the 9th at Cairo, brings news from Helena, Arkansas, that it was reported that the new Confederate gunboat Richmond, formerly the Star of the West, which has been fitting out up the Yazoo river, has got out into the Mississippi river and joined the Arkansas.

The London Economist of August 2, reports the British harvest a failure in quantity and quality, owing to the wet and cold summer's weather. The Mark Lane Express of July 23th, states the same facts, and that same high authority on grain affairs, also reports that in the south of France there is a deficiency in the yield and quality. Portugal has also a bad yield, and free imports are expected. In Italy the crop is short, the quality being fully seventy-five cents per quarter below that of last year, and the yield is deficient.

Brig. Gen. S. Casey has been assigned to the duty of receiving and encamping troops as they arrive in Washington from the several States.

Orders have been issued by the U. S. Secretary of War to the commanding officers of all armories and arsenals in the United States, to administer the oath of allegiance to all employees under their command.

Gov. Andrew's instructions to the assessors of the State of Massachusetts, make it their duty to include negro citizens in the enrolment subject to draft.

A correspondence between Gen. Phelps and Gen. Butler, is published. It appears Gen. Phelps, without authority, organized five companies of negro soldiers, and that the first knowledge Gen. Butler had of it was a requisition from Gen. P. for arms and equipments for them. Gen. Butler without responding to the requisition, directed the slaves to be employed in cutting away trees near the camp. This order Gen. Phelps chose to regard as placing him to the character of a "slave driver," a role which he thinks not at all in the line of talents. He therefore answered by a tender of his resignation, and a request for an immediate leave of absence until it should be accepted. Gen. Butler, however, refused to accept his resignation, and insisted upon his obeying the orders of his superior officer. Gen. B. has referred the whole matter to the Secretary of War.

John Canty and Richard McGinnis, of the first Maryland regiment, indicted for an assault and battery committed last winter upon T. Belt Johnson, of the Clearspring district, were tried and convicted before Washington county, Md., Circuit Court last week. The former was sentenced to six months imprisonment in the county jail and fined \$5 and costs, and the latter to three months imprisonment and fined five dollars and costs.

Mr. Seward, has formally recommended to the employees in the State Department, that they furnish as many soldiers for the war as there are persons therein fit for duty below the age of forty-five. Of the entire number it is said fifteen are capable for this purpose. The Secretary pledged himself to furnish three substitutes. The clerks promptly responded, and it is understood ten or eleven men have already been supplied by them either personally or by substitute.

The reported arrest of George Francis Train in London is doubted by his friends in this country, who received letters from him by the Scotia, in which nothing is said about it.

On Tuesday night, a patrol of the New York Cavalry under Lieut. Holmes entered Rockville, Md., and finding Perrie Trail about leaving the village under suspicious circumstances, questioned him, and as he would give no satisfactory account of himself, or take the oath of allegiance, took him in custody. Trail attempted to shoot one of the guards in whose charge he was placed. He was brought to the Provost Marshal's office on Wednesday morning, and was at once sent to the Old Capitol. The guard also searched the house of W. V. Bowie, and found thirty-one rifles and old muskets, with accoutrements, the plates bearing the Maryland coat-of-arms.

A train of cars from Culpeper, bringing down about six hundred sick and wounded soldiers from Gen. Banks' division, arrived in Washington yesterday.